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— A society for the "Advancement of Literature and Science in the Dominion of Canada," has been instituted in Canada under the auspices of the Marquis of Lorne. The assembly of scientists at Ottawa, May 25, 26 and 27, included the most notable men of science in the British Provinces. Among the foundation members present were Professor L. W. Bailey and Mr. Matthews, of New Brunswick. Dr. J. W. Dawson is the president.

— A large lacustrine canoe, in excellent condition, has been found near Bex, 4000 feet above the sea-level, and nearly 3000 feet above the valley of the Rhone. No lacustrine relics, says *Nature*, have ever before been met with in Switzerland at such an elevation.

— The fifty-second annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, will be held in Southampton, August 23d. The president-elect is C. W. Siemens.

— The eleventh meeting of the French Association will occur at Rochelle, beginning August 24th.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

American Philosophical Society, Jan. 6, 1882.—The death of Dr. Isaac Israel Hayes, the well-known explorer, on Dec. 17, 1881, was announced.

Feb. 3.—A paper upon the "Inclination of the apparent to the true Horizon, and the errors arising thereof in the Transit, Altitude, and Azimuth Observations," by Professor J. Hagen, was submitted for the proceedings.

Feb. 17.—Dr. Britton exhibited some peats and lignites of Arkansas, also some anthracites and bituminous coals from the same State, showing the progress of the formation of coals.

March 3.—Professor Cope read a paper entitled "On the Structure of some Eocene Carniverous Mammals," illustrating his subject by the exhibition of various fossil remains.

March 17.—Professor Sadtler read a paper by Professor Edgar F. Smith and Mr. Thomas, on corundum and wavellite from localities before unknown to mineralogists, about six to eight miles from Allentown.

Mr. Phillips made a communication in reference to the new Dictionary of the English language, now preparing under the auspices of the Philological Society.

The Philadedphia Academy of Natural Sciences, Feb. 21.—The deaths of Dr. J. W. Draper and Theo. Schwann, corresponding members, and of Dr. Bridges, were announced.

Feb. 28.—Dr. Leidy exhibited a beautiful collection of tourmaline crystals, and a variety of asbestos, known as "mountain leather," from the Hot Springs of Arkansas. This latter mineral contained at times flattened quartz crystals, and he asked if the asbestos could be supposed to influence the crystallization of the quartz.

Dr. Koening stated his belief that the coloring matter of tourmaline is entirely organic, and Dr. Leidy confirmed the belief from his experience of its destruction by heat.

Professor Heilprin remarked upon the erosion of their western banks by streams flowing from the poles to the equator, and of their eastern banks by streams flowing in the reverse direction. This was caused by the earth's rotation, but he suggested that for the same reason streams flowing from east to west ought to have a slower motion than those moving from west to east.

Dr. Parker recorded an anomaly in the common extensor tendon of the fore-limbs of a porcupine. The middle digit was unsupplied, the tendinous slip belonging to it being sent to the fourth digit, which was thus furnished with two slips.

March 7.—Mr. Meehan spoke of the difference in time between the ripening of the male and female flowers of the silver maple. Most of the male flowers on weak shoots open a week or two earlier than the female, leaving the work of fertilization to be performed by the few male flowers which, being on stronger branches, expanded the same time with the female.

Dr. Leidy called attention to the occurrence of *Balanoglossus* at Atlantic City. He believed this worm to be near to the Nemerteans. He also praised the excellence of soup made from *Solen ensis.* Dr. Leidy also stated that he had found *Scolithus* in pebbles of Potsdam sandstone from near Philadelphia.

Professor Lewis exhibited a large pebble showing glacial grooves.

March 16.—Dr. Horn spoke of the impalement of grasshoppers upon the echinocacti in Arizona by the action of shrikes or butcher-birds.

Mr. Ryder stated that the green color of oysters was not due to salts of copper, but probably to chlorophyll, so that green oysters were perfectly fit for food, as he had proved himself.

The president stated that enough copper to color an oyster would certainly kill it. The green color might be the zoöspores of *Ulva latissima.*

Professor Heilprin drew attention to the occurrence of an ammonite *in situ* in pieces of rock from the Tejon group of California. As all the other fossils in this group were Tertiary, the existence of a tertiary ammonite was thus proved.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY. General Meeting, May 17.—Mr. T. T. Bouvé made some remarks on gems and on the story told by certain sands; Professor H. W. Haynes gave some new evidence of cannibalism among the Indians of New England, from the island of Mt. Desert, Maine; the president described another strange type of Carboniferous Myriapods; and Mr. S. Garman said a few words on the dormant period of sharks.